

And since his second sitcom, "Newhart," ended in 1990 after eight seasons, Mr. Newhart has lent his almost-unflappable deadpan to a handful of films and television shows, most recently "ER" and "Desperate Housewives." But his favorite activity remains simply standing in front of a crowd with a microphone.

"I'm proudest of being a stand-up," he explained, "because it's harder. The degree of difficulty is 3.85 instead of 3.5."

It was also his baptism. Sitting in his spacious living room, dressed like the frumpy innkeeper of "Newhart" and speaking with a strategic stammer that sets up every punch line, he is comfortably recognizable as one of his television characters. His naturalistic technique of relying on his own personality to fill out his characters, he said, is a skill he picked up early in his stand-up career.

"You start out doing somebody else," he said. "I'd watch the Sullivan show and I'd watch the Paar show, and a comedian would be on, and I'd be laughing but at the same time analyzing him. When I started, I was doing all the good comedians I'd ever seen. Then I developed my own voice. My routines are my natural way of looking at the world."

Mr. Newhart discusses his performance like a serious method actor. He said: "With the stand-up comic on TV, whether it's Seinfeld or Cosby or Roseanne, more important than their knowledge of how to tell a joke is their knowledge of themselves, or the persona they've created as themselves. So that when you're in a room with writers you can say, 'Guys, that's a funny line but I wouldn't say it.'"

As a stand-up, he draws from a lifetime of routines, and for his oldest fans he always includes a few numbers from his first albums, like the conversation between Abraham Lincoln and his public relations man, who urges him not to shave his beard because it plays so well in focus groups. Reading recently about the Zacarias Moussaoui trial, his "button-down mind" found an angle on the 9/11 pilots, and he has been toying with it as a possible stand-up bit.

"They didn't want to learn to take off and land," he said. "They just wanted to fly. Some have criticized the F.B.I. because that should have been a red flag. But I saw it as a case of—" he studied his coffee table it as if it were a weekly planner—"O.K., well, I don't have to come in Monday; I can come in late Tuesday; Wednesday and Thursday, O.K., that's flying; and then I don't have to come in Friday."

His understated style has been widely influential, often in surprising ways. One of his biggest fans is Bernie Mac, who says he is but one of a generation of black comedians who were inspired by Mr. Newhart.

"A lot of people define courage as being out front and in your face," Mr. Mac said, "but Bob didn't come out of his picture frame for anybody. That bland style, that plaid jacket, with the hair combed to one side over the bald spot—that was Bob. And there's nothing wrong with that. Because it takes courage to be yourself, and he showed everybody that."

Working on his memoir, to be published in the fall by Hyperion, Mr. Newhart was reminded of the time he was on David Susskind's talk show with a panel of comedians, including Buddy Hackett and Alan King, and Mr. Susskind asked him about his background.

"You went to college?" he asked," Mr. Newhart said. "And I said, 'Yes, I went to Loyola University and I got a degree in accounting.' And Buddy said—" here Mr. Newhart did a remarkable imitation of Mr. Hackett's voice—" 'You mean you didn't have to do this?'"

"And now I can say, 'No, Buddy, I had to do this.'"

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### HONORING BRAVO COMPANY OF WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today it is my great honor to commend the soldiers of Bravo Company of the 463rd Engineering Battalion, Army Reserve Unit of Weirton, WV, as they return home. Selflessly leaving their families and communities behind during an 11-month deployment in Iraq, the 463rd served as a model of courage throughout their tour of duty.

In October 2004, more than 140 men and women of Bravo Company answered the call to service—leaving for training at Fort Bragg and in Kuwait. In doing so, they joined generations of West Virginians who have served our Nation in times of war, unselfishly putting themselves in harm's way to defend our country and protect the freedom of all Americans. I am not surprised by their actions—West Virginians, and our neighbors throughout the Ohio Valley, have always been among the first to respond to their country's call to service—but I am nevertheless grateful for their service and commitment. Thanks to the 463rd and so many other West Virginia men and women who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, I am proud to say that West Virginia's long tradition of patriotism is very much alive and well.

On Christmas Eve 2004, Bravo Company entered Iraq to begin its mission of rebuilding the war-torn country. Bravo Company provided engineering support for our troops, upgraded an Iraqi Air Force base, repaired a damaged bridge on the Tigris River needed for troop movements, and provided infrastructure for refueling the airplanes that provided such critical support in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Through their determined efforts, these individuals secured the safety of their fellow American men and women in uniform, simultaneously serving as the embodiment of American commitment to the people of Iraq. For that, they deserve our sincere gratitude and deepest respect.

Tragically, Bravo Company's mission was not completed without loss. On August 21, 2004, the life of Sgt. Joseph Nurre, a 22-year-old native of Wilton, CA was claimed by a roadside bomb near Samarra, Iraq. His fellow soldiers described him as an intensely dedicated soldier and a warm, engaging friend. As Bravo Company returns home, Sergeant Nurre and his family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

To all the men and women of Bravo Company, 463rd Engineering Battalion, I thank you for your service, patriotism, and commitment to our country and its defense. Your bravery and selfless sacrifice have earned you the admiration and respect of West Virginians and our Nation. God bless you all, and welcome home.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 25 YEARS DEFENDING DIGNITY AND WORTH

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, 25 years ago, a community in my State found itself with some new unwelcome neighbors. North Idaho made dismaying national headlines as "Hate's New Home." These headlines were a terrible distortion of the truth; the neo-Nazi organization that moved its headquarters to Hayden represented only a tiny fraction of the people who called Idaho home. Still, the damage was done, and people were left with the dreadful and mistaken impression that Idahoans were intolerant, prejudiced and hateful. And to make matters worse, like a malignant growth, some who did embrace doctrines of intolerance and bigotry were drawn to the area.

It is at crisis points that we define ourselves as either cowards or people of honor. The citizens of Kootenai County had a choice to make, and they chose to be people of honor. The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations was founded, giving that region a chance to speak out against human rights violations and prejudice. When the Aryan Nation decided to march down Main Street in Coeur d'Alene, rather than return hatred for hatred, businesses simply closed, giving the marchers no audience for their message of intolerance. Last year, the residents of Hayden exercised perhaps the most powerful right granted us as American citizens—our vote—sending a clear message that a leadership of hatred was absolutely unacceptable. And what didn't make the national press in recent years is the fact that according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, as of 2000, Idaho had 70 human rights groups, or one for every 18,500 people. To put this in perspective, at that time, California had one for every 358,000 people and New York had one for every 167,000 people. Now that is worthy of headlines, as far as I am concerned.

In cooperation with the task force and with a vision of established, ongoing education and leadership in human rights, the generous support of the Greg C. Carr Foundation, and dedicated leadership of Human Rights Education Institute board of directors, the Human Rights Education Institute was established, opening its doors in December 2005.

North Idaho was unexpectedly presented with a choice 25 years ago. Its citizens have not only responded with honor and justice, they, in the words of a former task force leader, "made lemonade out of lemons." I commend my fellow Idahoans on their vision for dignity and worth for all people. I applaud their staunch commitment to uphold our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and our Bill of Rights which ensure equality for all under the law.●